

Amendment/Reply

Applicant: Ian Colloff et al.

Serial No.: 09/977,604

Filed: October 21, 2001

Docket No.: 10011311-1/A310.257.101

Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR INPUT/OUTPUT PORT MIRRORING FOR NETWORKING
SYSTEM BRING-UP AND DEBUG

REMARKS

This Amendment/Reply accompanies the Request for Continued Examination (RCE) 37 CFR 1.114 and is in reply to the Final Office Action mailed January 18, 2006. Claims 2-7 were rejected. With this Amendment/Reply, claims 8-17 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 2 and 7 have been amended and claims 18-31 have been added. Claims 2-7 remain pending in the application and are presented for reconsideration and allowance along with the new claims 18-31.

Election/Restriction

The Examiner restricted the pending claims to Invention I including claims 2-7 and Invention II including claims 8-17.

In response to the restriction requirement, Applicants hereby elect Invention I including claims 2-7 and new claims 18-31. Applicant has accordingly cancelled Invention II claims 8-17 without prejudice.

In the Drawings

The Examiner objected to Figures 4 and 5 for lack of descriptive legends.

Applicants have amended Figures 4 and 5 to add descriptive legends and have submitted a set of Annotated Sheets Showing Changes and a set of Replacement Drawings. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the objection to the drawings be removed.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) for being unpatentable over the Soejima et al. U.S. Publication No. 2002/0019882 in view of the Suzuki et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,813,274.

The Examiner rejected claims 3-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) for being unpatentable over the Soejima et al. U.S. Publication No. 2002/0019882 in view of the Suzuki et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,813,274, and further in view of the Calamvokis et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,592,476.

The Soejima et al. patent does not teach or suggest the limitations of amended independent claims 2 of a switch core having a first channel configured to receive a logical

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input flow from each of the plurality of input ports, and having a second channel configured **to receive a raw input flow from each of the plurality of input ports**, wherein each logical input flow is carried by its corresponding raw input flow. In contrast, the Soejima et al. patent discloses in Fig. 7 the configuration of the packet-data processors 62#1, 66#1 and 68#1 employed in the L2TP encapsulating process unit 48#1. (See paragraph 53, lines 1-3). Additionally, the packet-data preprocessors 62#1j where $j = 1, \dots, A$ shown in Fig. 6 are a series of processors for generating a packet to undergo an L2TP capsulating process from a packet received from the pre-processing unit 46#1 and generating intermediate data required by the extractor and adder 64 and other units. (See paragraph 54, lines 23-27). Thus, the Soejima et al. patent does not teach or suggest a second channel configured to receive a **raw input flow** from each of the plurality of input ports as recited in amended independent claim 2.

Moreover, the Examiner admits that the Soejima et al. patent fails to teach the limitations of independent claim 2, of a plurality of port mirrors selectable from the plurality of ports, wherein each of the plurality of port mirrors is configured to produce a duplicate copy of at least one of the logical input flow and the raw input flow available at a selected port. The Examiner states that the Suzuki et al. patent teaches these limitations.

On the contrary, the Suzuki et al. patent does not teach or suggest the above limitations of independent claim 2. The Suzuki et al. patent discloses that OPG1 (output port group 1) and OPG2 (output port group 2) operate concurrently and independently and may receive from the same input port at the same time. For example, OPG1 is coupled to input ports 1 through 4 through data line set 1 and OPG2 is coupled to input ports 1 through 4 through data line set 3. (See Col. 6, line 66 – Col. 7, line 5). However, a plurality of individual ports are not configured to provide a duplicate copy of at least one of the logical input flow and the raw input flow available at a selected port. Therefore, the Suzuki et al. patent does not teach or suggest a **plurality of port mirrors** selectable from the plurality of ports, wherein **each of the plurality** of port mirrors is configured to produce a duplicate copy of at least one of the logical input flow and the raw input flow available at a selected port.

Furthermore, amended independent claim 2 includes the further limitations of wherein each of the input ports includes a switch configured to receive an output of the switch core and separate the logical input flow data from the raw input flow data. The Soejima et al.

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patent and the Suzuki et al. patent do not teach or suggest alone or in combination the limitations of amended claim 2 of the plurality of ports including a switch adapted to receive an output of the switch core and configured to separate the logical input flow data from the raw input flow data as recited in amended independent claim 2.

Therefore, the Soejima et al. patent and the Suzuki et al. patent do not teach or suggest alone or in combination all of the limitations of amended independent claim 2. Therefore amended independent claim 2 is believed to be allowable.

Dependent claims 3-7 further define patentably distinct amended independent claim 2. Therefore these dependent claims are also believed to be allowable.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 103 rejections to claims 2-7, and request allowance of these claims.

New Claims

New Claims 18-31 have been added in this response. The Soejima et al. patent does not teach or suggest the limitations of new claims 18-31. Furthermore, none of the cited references, alone or in combination, teach or suggest the limitations of new claims 18-31. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request allowance of new claims 18-31.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that pending claims 2-7, and new claims 18-31 are in form for allowance and are not taught or suggested by the cited references. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of claims 2-7 and 18-31 is respectfully requested.

No fees are required under 37 C.F.R. 1.16(h)(i). However, if such fees are required, the Patent Office is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-3718.

The Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's representative at the below-listed telephone numbers to facilitate prosecution of this application.

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Any inquiry regarding this Amendment and Response should be directed to either Patrick G. Billig at Telephone No. (612) 573-2003, Facsimile No. (612) 573-2005 or John R. Passetto at Telephone No. (303) 298-9888, Facsimile No. (303) 297-2266. In addition, all correspondence should continue to be directed to the following address:

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Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8:

The undersigned hereby certifies that this paper or papers, as described herein, are being deposited in the United States Postal Service, as first class mail, in an envelope address to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 18 day of April, 2006.

By: 

Name: Patrick G. Billig



ANNOTATED SHEET SHOWING CHANGES
Docket No. 10011311-1
METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR INPUT/OUTPUT PORT
MIRRORING FOR NETWORKING SYSTEM BRING-UP AND
DEBUG

Ian Colloff et al.
1/2

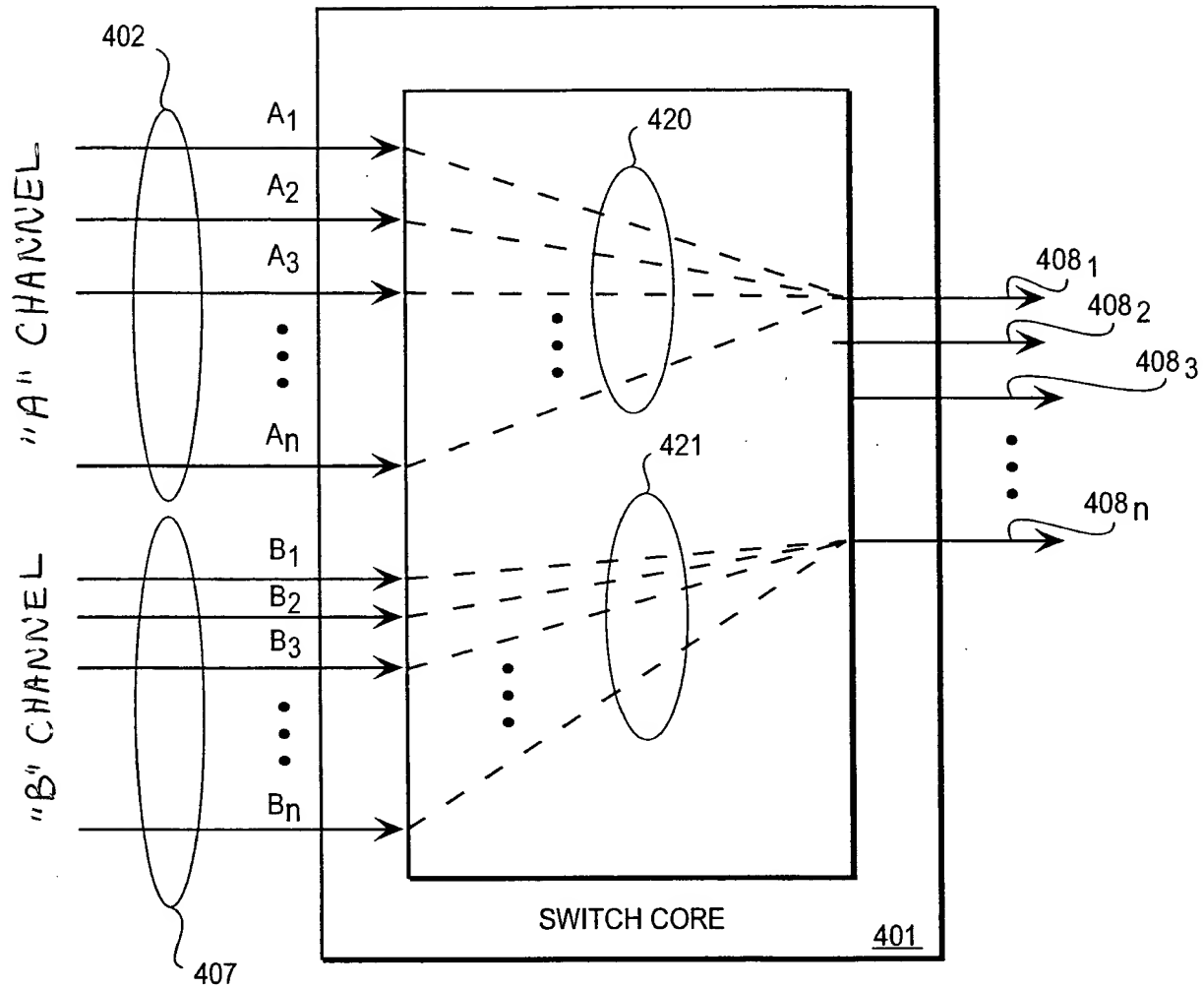


FIG. 4

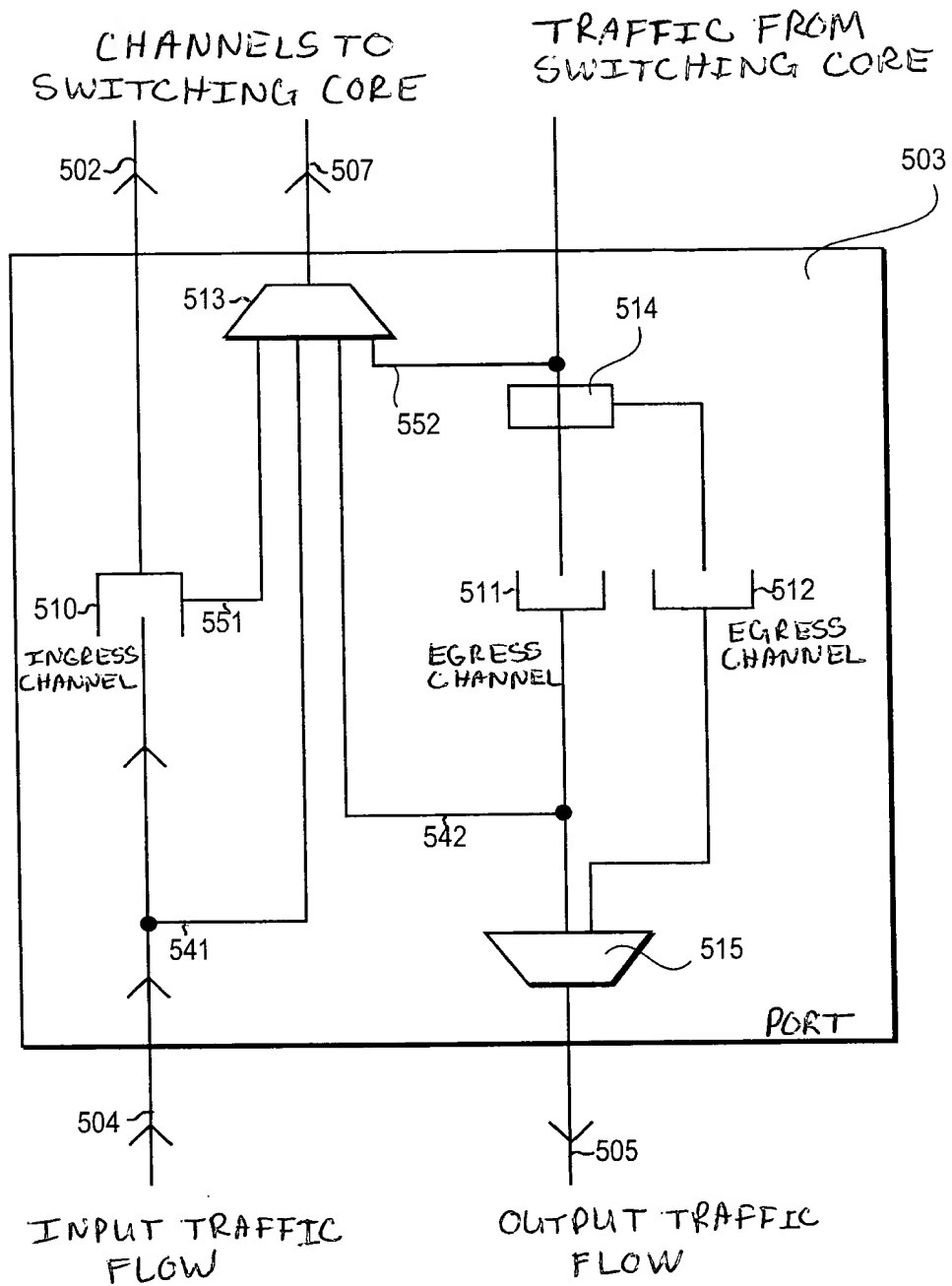


FIG. 5